

**NEW PLANT RECORDS: ILLINOIS AND INDIANA.**—The following collections represent the first records of these taxa from Illinois or Indiana. Specimens are deposited in the Herbarium of the Illinois State Natural History Survey at Urbana (ILLS) and/or the Herbarium of the Chicago Natural History Museum (F).

**Physalis ixocarpa** Brotero. This ground-cherry was collected in north-west Indiana in disturbed, sandy soil east of Clark Road, about 1 mile north of highway 12, Gary, Lake County, July 31, 1955, *Thieret 1514* (F).

**Verbascum virgatum** Stokes. A number of plants of this species, growing up to seven feet tall, were observed with *Verbascum thapsus* and *V. blattaria* and collected in the railroad yard at Mounds, Pulaski County, Illinois, July 25, 1956, *Evers 51500* (ILLS), *Thieret 2085* (F).

The discovery of this species in Illinois raises to five the number of members of *Verbascum* reported to have been collected in the state.

**Liatris squarrosa** (L.) Michx., forma **alba**, f. nov., a typo differt floribus albidis.—Bluff top, Belle Smith Springs, Pope County, Illinois, July 24, 1956, *John W. Thieret 2031*, TYPE, in Herb. Chi. Nat. Hist. Mus.; July 24, 1956, *R. A. Evers 51400*, isotype in Herb. Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv.

This white-flowered form was found growing with plants showing the usual phlox-purple color.—ROBERT A. EVERS AND JOHN W. THIERET, ILLINOIS STATE NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY AND CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

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SUSAN MCKELVEY'S HISTORY: an appreciation with some incidental *inquirendae et addendae*.<sup>1</sup>—"The book lies on our desk as a testimony of the best of human endeavour," wrote Dr. H. J. Lam in another connection, "and it commands our admiration written as it is in the spirit of reverence for every witness of good-will through the ages." This was said of Mrs. Van-Steenis-Kruseman's *Cyclopedia of botanical exploration in Malaysia* (1950), but is relevant here as well. We return to such books as veritable libraries of information. That they may (and will) have *lacunae* is known first to the authors, who have long delayed their appearance to avoid them. Then upon their publication, like turning the hour-glass end for end, desk copies are marked with the additions and corrections that will accrue toward the future revision. I have reviewed this book-of-the-century in brief commendatory remarks in another place (*Scientific Monthly* **84**: 161. Mar. 1957); here it may prove useful to record precise points that came to notice in a critical reading.

This book is first a human document, for though its 1184 pages are

<sup>1</sup> *Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West, 1790-1850*. By Susan Delano McKelvey. Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 1955. pp. xl, 1144. maps. \$25.